

# Spotted Knapweed

*(Centaurea maculosa)*

NRCS has introduced a new program under the 2006 Colorado EQIP Invasive Plant Program to address this particular weed.



## Features:

- Native of central Europe
- Member of the Aster family, Thistle tribe
- A simple perennial that reproduces from seed and forms a new shoot each year from a taproot
- Plant can have one or more shoots up to 4 feet tall
- Rosette leaves can be 6 inches long and deeply lobed
- Flowering heads are solitary and occur on shoot tips and are usually lavender to purple in color
- Seed head bracts are stiff and black-tipped, with five to seven pairs of short, feathery appendages
- Can be found in dry meadows, pasture land, stony hills, roadsides, and the sandy or gravelly flood plains of streams and rivers

## How YOU Can Help

- ✓ Learn to identify invasive plant species in your area.
- ✓ Report sightings of invasive species to your local county or land management agency.
- ✓ Do not pick wildflowers or plants. They may be invasive species and picking them can spread their seeds.
- ✓ Check local weed lists before you buy plants for your garden or yard.
- ✓ Clean all camping gear, clothing, and shoes before leaving an area to avoid inadvertently taking seeds along with you to the next campsite.
- ✓ Always stay on designated trails when camping or hiking, avoiding weed infested areas.
- ✓ Drive only on established roads or trails away from weed infested areas.

**For more information on the identification and control of noxious weeds contact your local NRCS and Conservation District Office.**